



Matthew D. Orwig
United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

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Contact: Davilyn Brackin Public Information Officer (409) 839-2538 office (409) 553-9881 cell

MEXICAN NATIONALS SENTENCED FOR IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS

United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced that three Mexican citizens have been sentenced to federal prison for immigration violations in the Eastern District of Texas. ISAURO ALANIS-BOTELLO, 40, was sentenced to 87 months, OMAR ALEJANDRO PICHARDO-PERALTA, 28, was sentenced to 57 months, and JOSE LUIS PESCADOR-ARRIAGA, 24, was sentenced to 6 months in Federal prison by United States District Judge Michael Schneider, each for illegally returning and being found unlawfully present in the United States after having been deported to Mexico.

According to information presented in court, on December 13, 2005, Alanis was arrested by officers with the Tyler Police Department following a routine traffic stop. He was found to be in possession of 80 pounds of marijuana. A record check revealed he had been deported to Mexico following an aggravated felony conviction for a federal drug trafficking crime in the Southern District of Texas on May 12, 1999. After serving a federal sentence of 15 months for that offense, Alanis was deported to Mexico on July 26,

2002. In January of 2005, Alanis was indicted for being an alien found unlawfully present in the United States after having been deported. On February 6, 2006, he pleaded guilty to this charge. On March 27, 2006, Alanis was sentenced in Smith County to 40 years in the Texas Department of Corrections for possession of the 80 pounds of Marijuana.

According to information presented in court, Pichardo was arrested in Smith County on October 18, 2005 after he was stopped by deputies with the Smith County Sheriff's Department and found to be in possession of a controlled substance. In December of 2005, Immigration agents found Pichardo at the Smith County Jail and determined that he had been deported to Mexico in September of 1999 as a result of an aggravated felony conviction for Robbery in June of 1995 in Smith County. On January 10, 2006, Pichardo was indicted for being an alien found unlawfully present in the United States after having been deported and he pleaded guilty to this charge on February 17, 2006.

According to information presented in court, Pescador was arrested on January 16, 2006 by officers with the Jacksonville, Texas, Police Department for possession and use of inhalants. Immigration agents were contacted and they determined that Pescador had been deported from the United States to Mexico on October 19, 2005. On March 7, 2006, Pescador was indicted for being an alien found unlawfully present in the United States after having been deported. On May 24, 2006, Pescador pleaded guilty to this charge.

These cases were investigated by the Tyler Police Department, the Smith County Sheriff's Department, the Jacksonville Police Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and prosecuted by